



# South Dakota Department of the Military South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs



## 114TH FIGHTER WING AWARDED FOR PERFORMANCE, SAFETY

The Sioux Falls-based 114th Fighter Wing continues to earn honors for excellence in performance and safety practices.

The South Dakota Air National Guard unit has earned the National Guard Association of the United States Distinguished Flying Unit Plaque and the Major General John J. Pesch Flight Safety Trophy, presented during the 2015 NGAUS conference in Nashville, Tennessee, Sept. 10-13.

The Distinguished Flying Unit Plaque recognizes the five highest-rated outstanding Air National Guard flying units in the nation. This is the fifth time the 114th has received the honor, which was previously awarded in 1980, 1985, 1988 and 2008.

For the fourth time in its history, the 114th has received the Pesch Trophy, which is presented to two flying units judged to have demonstrated the highest standards of flight safety. The 114th was previously awarded the Pesch Trophy in 1984, 1996 and 2004.

Distinguished flying units are selected by boards comprised of Army and Air Directorates of the National Guard Bureau, and selections are based on the overall combat readiness during the reporting year and the unit's performance with respect to all other Air Guard flying units.

When making their selections, the board evaluates the unit's flying safety record, aircraft operational readiness, unit manning, skill level qualifications and several other operational and manning requirements.

The 114th operates F-16 fighter aircraft from facilities at Joe Foss Field in Sioux Falls. The 'Flying Lobos' have flown thousands of hours in F-16 aircraft without an accident from dozens of locations around the world, in a variety of weather conditions, during daylight and nighttime hours.



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## WAGNER VETERANS STAND DOWN

SDDVA Field Officer Kevin Bowen assisted County Veterans Service Officer Roy Farabee (Charles Mix and Gregory Counties) at a Veterans Stand Down in Wagner last week.



Veterans were provided a one-stop shop to learn more about programs and services for veterans. Veterans were provided with a broad range of necessities including food, clothing, medical, legal and mental health assistance, job counseling and referral, and most importantly, companionship and camaraderie.



## RAPID CITY HONORS THEIR PATRIOTS

Main Street Square in Rapid City was the setting for an outstanding "Patriots Day" program last week.

This setting allowed leaders within the veteran network to offer care and assistance to veterans and respond to any questions they had with regard to programs, services, and benefits.

SDDVA Field Officer Will Huffmon teamed up with the Pennington County VSO Trio—Neal Lutke, Alex Purcell and Jamie Guffey to address state and federal benefits. With this much talent and expertise in one tent, our veterans were ensured the best guidance and support!



## MITCHELL VETERANS TOWN HALL

Davison County played host for a VA Veterans Town Hall meeting this week in Mitchell. Presenters for the Town Hall were Darwin Goodspeed, Director, Sioux Falls VA Health Care System, and James Brubaker, Director, VA Regional Office.

The Town Hall affords VA leadership the opportunity to listen and learn from attendees.

SDDVA Field Officer Kevin Bowen and Davison County VSO Jessica Davidson were on hand to assist veterans with any questions they might have.

A Benefits Fair followed the Town Hall.



## LEGISLATORS RECOGNIZED BY VETERANS COUNCIL

Senators Ried Holien and Jim Peterson and Representative Mathew Wollmann were recognized by the South Dakota Veterans Council this week for their leadership in caring for South Dakota's veterans.

SD Veterans Council President Terry Paulsen and Vice President Rollie Lambert presented Wollmann with his plaque and thanked him for his unending commitment to South Dakota's veterans. Holien and Peterson were unable to attend.

The purpose and objectives of the South Dakota Veterans Council is to develop a statewide, intelligent, aggressive and serviceable Council for the purpose of promoting all activities found to be for the good of all veterans and their dependents. To provide a practical means by which veterans service organizations throughout the state can effectively contribute to the betterment of all veterans.

The South Dakota Veterans Council is comprised of congressionally chartered veterans' service organizations which include The American Legion (TAL), Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), Disabled American Veterans (DAV), North Central Chapter of Paralyzed Veterans of America (PVA), Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA), and the Military Order of the Purple Heart (MOPH). Membership consists of three members from each veterans service organization.



## LOOKING FOR A STOCKING STUFFER FOR THE VETERAN IN YOUR LIFE?



There are only 98 days left till Christmas! If you're struggling with a gift idea for the veteran in your life — here's one to consider!!!!





# Project Connect

**Connecting people to resources.**

Housing  
Substance abuse  
Disability info.

Employment  
Medical  
Veterans

Haircuts  
Mental Health  
Snack packs

Navigators will be available to help match services to your needs.  
Representatives from over 40 local agencies will be offering  
information about their services.

**Everyone is welcome!**

**Tuesday, October 6, 2015**

**9:00am – 1:00pm**

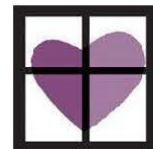
Minnehaha County Department of Human Services  
521 N. Main Avenue, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Sioux Falls, SD, 57104



**for more information.**



A partnership between Helpline center and Sioux Empire Homeless Coalition.



## Rapid City Social Security Office is Moving

Effective Monday 9/14/2015, we will be open at:  
2200 N Maple Ave, Suite 301, Rushmore Mall, Rapid City, SD 57701  
OR

You can contact Social Security by phone at 1-800-772-1213

### Directions:

From I-90 take exit 58. The office entrance is located on the exterior of the building on the south side between Sears and the food court.



## What You Can Do Online

[www.socialsecurity.gov](http://www.socialsecurity.gov)

### APPLY FOR BENEFITS

Apply for Social Security retirement/spouse's benefits	<a href="http://www.socialsecurity.gov/applyforbenefits">www.socialsecurity.gov/applyforbenefits</a>
Apply for Social Security disability benefits	<a href="http://www.socialsecurity.gov/applyfordisability">www.socialsecurity.gov/applyfordisability</a>
Apply for Medicare	<a href="http://www.socialsecurity.gov/medicareonly">www.socialsecurity.gov/medicareonly</a>
Apply for Extra Help with your Medicare prescription drug costs	<a href="http://www.socialsecurity.gov/i1020">www.socialsecurity.gov/i1020</a>

### IF YOU GET BENEFITS

Create a <b>my</b> Social Security account and: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Get your benefit verification letter;</li> <li>• Check your benefit and payment information and your earnings record;</li> <li>• Change your address and phone number; and</li> <li>• Start or change direct deposit of your benefit payment.</li> </ul>	<a href="http://www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount">www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount</a>
Get a form SSA-1099/1042 (Social Security Benefit Statement)	<a href="http://www.socialsecurity.gov/1099">www.socialsecurity.gov/1099</a>
Get a replacement Medicare card	<a href="http://www.socialsecurity.gov/medicarecard">www.socialsecurity.gov/medicarecard</a>

Find answers to frequently asked questions at  
[www.socialsecurity.gov/faq](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/faq)

## CODE TALKER MEDAL EXHIBIT TO HONOR NATIVE AMERICAN VETERANS

An Oceti Sakowin (Oh-CHAY-tee Shaw-KOE-ween) Code Talker Congressional Medallion exhibit will tour several South Dakota cities in October and November in observance of Native American Heritage month.

The traveling exhibit "Honoring Native Pride and Spirit – Yesterday, Today and Forever" honors code talker veterans, their families and all veterans who served or are currently serving in the military.

The medals are Congress' highest recognition and appreciation of people, institutions or events.

The exhibit will be open for public viewing from 10 a.m.–3 p.m. local time on each scheduled date along with an honor ceremony beginning at 11:11 a.m. The ceremony will include featured speakers from SDNG leadership and highlight the service of code talker veterans and their families from all local tribes.

Recruiters from the SDNG will be available during the exhibit to speak about career opportunities for those who may want to serve.

The exhibit will conclude with a special celebration on November 11/Veterans Day at Crazy Horse Memorial, which will include a blast honoring all veterans at 11:11 a.m.

Exhibit dates and locations are:

October 14 Pierre: Indian Learning Center, New Gym—3001 E. Sully Ave.

October 21 Watertown: Lake Area Technical Institute—1201 Arrow Ave., Student Event Center (level 4)

October 28 Sioux Falls: University Center, 4801 N. Career Ave., Admin Bldg. (commons area)  
November 11 Crazy Horse Memorial

The South Dakota National Guard is partnering with the SDNG Museum, S.D. Department of Veterans Affairs, Crazy Horse Memorial, Tatanka, Black Hills Area Council #695, Boy Scouts of America, Throwback Softball, Sperlich Consulting, Women Veterans of the Black Hills and the Rapid City Chamber of Commerce to host the events.

### Code Talkers Recognition Congressional Medals Program

On November 20, 2013, in Emancipation Hall at the U.S. Capitol, 33 tribes were recognized for the dedication and valor of Native American code talkers to the U.S. Armed Services during World Wars I and II. Of the tribes recognized, 25 were presented with their Congressional Gold Medals.

The Code Talkers Recognition Act of 2008 (Act) (Public Law 110-420) required the Secretary of the Treasury to strike Congressional Medals in recognition of the dedication and valor of Native American code talkers to the U.S. Armed Services during World War I and World War II. "Code talkers" refers to those Native Americans who used their tribal languages as a means of secret communication during wartime.

Under the Act, unique gold medals were struck for each Native American tribe that had a member who served as a code talker. Silver duplicate medals were presented to the specific code talkers, their next of kin, or other personal representatives. In addition, bronze duplicates are available for sale to the public.





# Upcoming Events

Sept. 18—POW-MIA Ceremony—Sioux Falls Veterans Memorial Park—6:30 pm (CT)  
Sept. 18—Ellsworth AFB Retiree Appreciation Day— Exhibits 9:00 am—3:00 pm (MDT)—Luncheon 11:00 am—1:00 pm (MDT) - EAFB  
Sept. 19—Agent Orange Town Hall Forum—VFW Post 1273 (420 Main Street) - Rapid City—Two Sessions (one from 9:00 am—noon and one from noon—3:00 pm (MDT)  
Sept. 25—Veterans Stand Down—VFW—Sioux Falls (3601 S. Minnesota Ave.) - 9:00 am—2:00 pm (CT)  
Sept. 25-27—NCPVA Veterans Trapshoot—Crooks  
Oct. 5—BHNC Unaccompanied Veterans Memorial Service—9:00 am (MT)  
Oct. 9—Women Veterans Conference  
Oct. 10—DAV Fall Conference—DAV Headquarters—Sioux Falls  
Oct. 24—VVA Agent Orange Town Hall Meeting—1519 W. 51st St—Sioux Falls—9:00 am—3:00 pm (CT)  
Nov. 7—Vietnam Veterans of America State Council Meeting—Pierre Post 8 American Legion—Noon (CT)  
Nov. 13—VABHHCS VSO Congressional Forum—Hot Springs—10:00 am  
Dec. 8— Governor's Budget Address—Pierre

## 2016

Jan. 4—BHNC Unaccompanied Veterans Memorial Service—9:00 am (MT)  
Jan. 12—SD Legislative Session Opens—Pierre  
Jan. 14—Veterans Legislative Breakfast—Pierre  
Jan. 27-28—State Tribal Relations Days—Pierre  
Apr. 4—BHNC Unaccompanied Veterans Memorial Service—9:00 am (MT)  
April 15-17—DAV Convention—Rapid City  
Jul. 11—BHNC Unaccompanied Veterans Memorial Service—9:00 am (MT)  
Oct. 3—BHNC Unaccompanied Veterans Memorial Service—9:00 am (MT)

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